

Remarks:

1. The Claims and Abstract shown above are presented in their "clean" form; marked-up copies showing the amendments are attached at the end of this Petition.
2. In this Preliminary Amendment, **Claims 1 to 6** were amended and **Claims 7 to 18** added. The claims were amended and added, respectively, to more clearly recite elements of the invention that were disclosed in the Specification as filed, but not claimed.
3. The Abstract was amended to shorten it to 50 words. No new matter was introduced with this amendment.
4. No new material has been added with any of the amendments to the Claims **1 to 6**, the addition of the new Claims **7 to 18**, or the amendment to the Abstract, and entry of this amendment and consideration of the claims for allowance are respectfully requested.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING ACC. TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date: March 6, 2001. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I request that this correspondence be given a filing date of March 6, 2001.

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Mark d-up Copy of Claims

1. (Amended) A method of automatically producing a project **[specifications]** specification from project information, wherein said project specification is based on a base document, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. preparing [creating a map of] a base document;
- b. creating a project specification for mapping said project information into said base document [defining default tags for said base document];
- c. generating a draft project specification; and [mapping said default tags to said base document;]
- d. [creating tags from said project information] providing online access to said draft project specification, whereby said draft project specification is reviewable and editable online, in real time, from a remote location. [
- e. linking said user tags to said default tags to create a project specification map; and
- f. merging said base document and said project specification map to create a project specification.]

2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said **[step of creating said map of said base document includes defining each paragraph in said base document and assigning a unique paragraph identifier to said each paragraph]** base document contains one or more subdivisions and said step of preparing said base document includes assigning a unique identifier to each one of said subdivisions.

3. (Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said step of **[linking said user tags to said default tags includes]** preparing said base document further includes the steps of:

- a. [assigning a unique tag identifier to each of said default tags] defining a set of default tags for said base document; and
- b. [for each of said user tags, identifying a corresponding default tag for each particular user tag and] linking [said particular user tag to said default tag] each one of said default tags with one or more of said subdivisions.

1 4. (Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein [said step of merging said base document
2 and said project specification map to create said project specification] each of said subdivisions
3 includes one or more sections, each of said sections containing one or more paragraphs, and
4 said step of linking each one of said default tags includes the steps of:

- 5 a. [calling up said base document and said project specification map] assigning a unique tag
6 identifier to each one of said default tags; and
7 b. [merging said base document and said project specification map] linking each said tag
8 identifier to one or more of said paragraphs. [
9 c. determining which paragraphs are relevant paragraphs to said project specification and which
10 are irrelevant; and
11 d. crossing out all said irrelevant paragraphs in said base document.]

1 5. (Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein said step of preparing said base
2 document further includes the steps of: [project information is in a form of drawing calloffs on a
3 CAD drawing, said CAD drawing being viewable on a computer screen via a CAD viewer, said method
4 further comprising the steps of

- 5 a. [providing a calloff link between a CAD drawing and a CAD viewer, wherein said calloff link
6 converts X/Y coordinates of said CAD drawing to pixel coordinates of a computer screen] assigning a
7 unique paragraph identifier to each one of said paragraphs; and;
8 b. [providing a drawing mapping function that presents calloffs from said CAD drawing in a
9 calloff list and identifies a calloff as a scanned calloff if said calloff is found in a first list, identifies said
10 calloff as an ignore calloff if said calloff is found in a second list, and identifies said calloff as an unknown
11 calloff if said calloff is not found in one of said first and said second lists;
12 c. inserting said corresponding one of said default tags into a user tag list assigning a unique
13 paragraph identifier to each one of said paragraphs; and] defining parent-child relationships with
14 one or more pairs of said paragraphs.

1 6. (Amended) The method of Claim [4] 5, wherein said [project information is obtained
2 from a checklist that is filled out online, said method further comprising the steps of] step of creating
3 said project specification map includes the steps of:

- 4 a. [providing a client account online] deriving user tags from said project information;
5 b. [providing a project information checklist online wherein default tags can be

6 checked off online; and] identifying a match between a particular default tag and a particular
7 one of said user tags, associating said tag identifier of said particular default tag with said
8 particular one of said user tags;

9 c. [linking said default tags that were checked off in said checklist with said default tags] defining
10 other ones of said user tags as ignorable tags;

11 d. providing a set of project specification tags that contains said particular one of said
12 user tags, wherein said set of project specification tags contains each said particular one of
13 said user tags that is to be used in producing said project specification;

14 e. providing a set of ignorable tags that contains said ignorable tags, wherein said
15 ignorable tags are to be ignored when producing said project specification; and

16 f. defining still other ones of said user tags as unknown tags if said still other ones are not
17 identifiable as having a match with respective one of said particular ones in said set of default
18 tags and are not definable as belonging to said set of ignorable tags.

1 7. (New) The method of Claim 6, wherein said step of creating said project specification
2 map further includes doing a full text search of said base document to determine if a hitherto
3 unknown tag can be associated with one or more of said default tags, and, if a corresponding
4 default tag is found, associating said tag identifier of said corresponding default tag with said
5 hitherto unknown tag that now becomes an associated tag and including said associated tag in
6 said set of project specification tags.

1 8. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein said step of preparing said base document
2 includes the step of including said associated tag in said set of default tags.

1 9. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein said user tags are obtained as calloffs on a
2 drawing, said method further comprising the step of identifying a status of particular calloffs,
3 wherein a first particular calloff is identified as a scanned calloff if said first particular calloff
4 matches one of said project specification tags, a second particular calloff is identified as an
5 ignorable calloff if said second calloff matches one of said ignorable tags, and a third particular
6 calloff is identified as an unknown calloff if said third calloff does not match at least one of
7 said project specification tags or one of said ignorable tags.

1 10. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein said drawing is a computer-aided drawing
2 (CAD drawing) viewable on a computer screen via a CAD viewer, said step of identifying said
3 particular calloffs including the steps of:

4 a. providing a calloff link between said CAD drawing and said CAD viewer, wherein said
5 calloff link converts X/Y coordinates of said CAD drawing to pixel coordinates of a computer
6 screen; and

7 b. providing a drawing mapping function for mapping said particular calloffs from a
8 portion of said CAD drawing that is shown on said computer screen into a calloff list on said
9 computer screen.

1 11. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said drawing mapping function includes
2 generating a table of said calloffs and providing status codes that indicate a scanning status of
3 each of said particular calloffs, wherein said scanning status includes a scanned status, an
4 ignore status, and an unknown status.

1 12. (New) The method of Claim 6, wherein a checklist is provided online and said project
2 information is entered by checking one or more items on said checklist, and wherein each
3 respective one of said items is associated with a respective one said tag identifier and is
4 included in said set of project specification tags.

1 13. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said step of generating said draft
2 project specification includes the steps of:

3 a. identifying which of said subdivisions in said base document are relevant subdivisions
4 to said project specification and which are irrelevant; and

5 b. merging said base document and said project specification map to create said draft
6 project specification containing at least said relevant subdivisions.

1 14. (New) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said relevant subdivisions include
2 relevant sections and relevant paragraphs.

1 **15.** (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein said step of providing online access includes
2 the steps of:

- 3 a. providing a specific online client account for each client;
4 b. providing said client with access to a document editor and said project specification for
5 reviewing and editing said draft project specification; and
6 c. allowing said client to work collaboratively on said project specification, wherein said
7 client may include one or more persons located at one or more remote sites.

1 **16.** (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said step of creating said project
2 specification map includes the step of providing a mapping function that links each said tag
3 identifier of each project specification tag in said set of project specification tags to said
4 respective parent identifier and links each one said tag identifier to said unique paragraph
5 identifier of each of said a paragraphs and links each said tag identifier that is associated with
6 one of said project specification tags with said respective paragraph identifier, and, if said
7 respective paragraph is in said parent-child relationship with one or more parent-child-related
8 paragraphs, creating parent-child links to said one or more parent-child-related paragraphs.

1 **17.** (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein said base document is stored in a first
2 database, and said project specification map in a second database, said method further
3 comprising the steps of:

- 4 a. merging said base document and said project specification map;
5 b. generating said draft project specification that identifies said relevant paragraphs; and
6 c. displaying said draft project specification in said editor for online review and editing.

1 **18.** (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing online access includes
2 the steps of:

- 3 a. providing a specific online client account for each client;
4 b. providing said client with access to a document editor and said project specification for
5 reviewing and editing said draft project specification; and
6 c. allowing said client to work collaboratively on said project specification, wherein said
7 client may include one or more persons located at one or more remote sites.